

YMCA Camp Pepin Wrangler Camp I Summary

Welcome to Wrangler Camp!

YMCA Camp Pepin believes that its camp experiences should be designed to enhance the YMCA's mission of building healthy spirit, mind, and body. It is our belief that giving campers the opportunity to participate in unique activities in the beauty of natural creation encourages them to learn new skills, accept new challenges, and develop confidence in themselves and others. It is our belief that offering experiences that are both physically and mentally challenging will help campers to grow in stature and in maturity. It is also our belief that offering a variety of activities where campers can succeed as individuals or as part of a team influences them to grow into well-rounded contributors to society.

Wrangler Camps are led by trained professional instructors, who will guide the participants in learning the basic skills of horsemanship. They will also supervise them in activities that are inherent to the experience, such as tacking, grooming, mounting, dismounting, and riding. While camp staff members strive to tailor each trail experience to the skill levels of the participants, Wrangler Camps may pose physical and mental challenges, and participants should be prepared to accept these and to take on their reasonable share of responsibilities.

Overview

Wrangler Camp 1 is designed as an introduction to horses for those with either little or no horsemanship experience. The skills performed will include caring for horses, leading horses from one location to another, using appropriate riding commands, practicing basic riding techniques, demonstrating horse safety procedures, and storing riding equipment properly.

What to Bring

In addition to the items listed on the Bring-Along List in the *Summer Planning Guide*, please bring the extra items listed below with you:

- The *Release and Hold Harmless Agreement* Form (This needs to be turned in with your other forms.)
- The *Acknowledgement of Risks* Form (This needs to be turned in with your other forms.)
- Copy of parents' or guardians' insurance card (This needs to be turned in with your other forms.)
- 1 Pair of sturdy boots with heels
- 2-3 Pairs of jeans

Arrival and Departure Times

Wrangler 1 campers should arrive at Camp Pepin on Sunday between 2:00-3:00pm (along with all of the other campers). Parents and Guardians will pick-up Trail campers and their belongings from Camp Pepin on Friday after the 4:00pm Closing Ceremony (which parents, family, and friends are invited to).

Accommodations

All nights will be spent in cabins at Camp Pepin.

Lead Instructor

The lead instructor (and the proprietor of Hawkridge Stables) is Melanie York, who has been working with youth for over 20 years and with horses for over 30. Melanie has facilitated riding lessons at Hawkridge Stables for 8 years.

Supervision

In addition to the lead instructor, Melanie, Camp Pepin will also have 1 staff member to supervise the 6 campers at Hawkridge Stables.

Transportation

Camp Pepin staff members will drive the campers to Hawkridge Stables from camp daily (see schedule). Participants will travel by 15-passenger vans, which undergo a thorough professional mechanical inspection prior to each summer camp season, and which undergo a written vehicular inspection prior to each excursion. Camp Pepin staff members participate in a driver training session that is specific to handling 15-passenger vans with trailers, and must demonstrate specific road skills and maneuvering competency before being added to the camp's vehicular insurance and being approved to drive a camp vehicle. All passengers are required to wear seatbelts any time their vehicle is in motion.

Meals

All meals will be served in the Dining Hall at the regular meal times.

Itinerary

Wrangler 1 campers will either attend the morning or the afternoon session at Hawkridge Stables.

Monday-Thursday

- 9:45 Morning Wrangler 1 campers depart for Hawkridge Stables
- 12:15 Morning Wrangler 1 campers return from Hawkridge Stables

- 1:00 Afternoon Wrangler 1 campers depart for Hawkridge Stables
- 3:30 Afternoon Wrangler 1 campers return from Hawkridge Stables

Inclement Weather

If the weather becomes too severe for outdoor activities to occur at Wrangler Camp, campers and their staff members will follow the established severe weather guidelines and seek shelter in the location where they are riding.

Emergency Care

Melanie York is a Certified Nursing Assistant and is trained in first aid procedures and blood borne pathogens. Camp Pepin staff are minimally certified in Red Cross First Aid and CPR. An emergency kit and health forms will accompany all staff and campers on off-site trips. An emergency kit is also available at Lost Creek Ranch. Local EMS services are available at Camp Pepin and medical facilities are available in Red Wing, MN, at Fairview Red Wing Medical Center and in Wabasha, MN, at St. Elizabeth's Medical Center (both within 10-15 miles of an area where the campers will be riding).

Location

The Wrangler 1 camp will be held at Hawkridge Stables in Pepin, Wisconsin.